

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

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EA/IMS:EINGRAHAM

EA/RA:RTHOMPSON

S/S- RKUCHEL

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O R 022332Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

S E C R E T STATE 208313

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SI CH US

SUBJ: HARVARD PROPOSAL FOR RESEARCH PROGRAM ON  
OVERSEAS CHINESE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

REFS: A) SINGAPORE 3676; B) SINGAPORE 3683

1. YOUR FULL ACCOUNT OF YOUR CONVERSATION WITH PRIME  
MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW (REF A) WAS VERY HELPFUL. LEE'S  
ANALYSIS OF OVERSEAS CHINESE ATTITUDES IS FASCINATING AS  
ALWAYS, BUT WE WONDER WHETHER LEE SERIOUSLY BELIEVES THAT  
USG WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER OFFERING ADVICE TO  
SOUTHEAST ASIAN GOVERNMENTS ON HOW TO HANDLE THEIR CHINESE  
MINORITIES. WE CERTAINLY WOULD NOT WISH TO GIVE HIM THAT  
IMPRESSION.

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2. AS REGARDS ISSUE RAISED IN REF B, IN VIEW OF THE ACUTE

SENSITIVITIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING SINGAPORE, ON THE SUBJECT OF THEIR OVERSEAS CHINESE POPULATIONS, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT IN RESPONDING TO LEE YOU SHOULD AVOID SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS ON THE MERITS OF THE HARVARD PROPOSAL OR OF LEE'S REPLY WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS USG VIEWS. IF YOU WISH, YOU COULD INFORM LEE ON A PERSONAL BASIS THAT HARVARD PROJECT HAS MANY INTERESTING

ASPECTS. SINCE IT INVOLVES AN AREA OF UNUSUAL POLITICAL SENSITIVITY, HOWEVER, SOME COOPERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE REQUIRED. YOU COULD ALSO NOTE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S DETAILED AND THOUGHTFUL REPLY TO THE HARVARD SPONSORS REFLECTS A KEEN APPRECIATION OF THESE SENSITIVITIES.

ROBINSON

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RESEARCH, PERSONAL OPINION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), MINORITIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 02 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**To:** SINGAPORE  
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